

SENATE BILL 423

By Stevens

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 21-1-204, relative to divorce actions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 21-1-204, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

In a divorce action, if a person has been unable to locate his or her spouse for five (5) or more years and files an affidavit attesting at a minimum to the date of the most recent contact with the defendant, the defendant's last known address, any known telephone numbers for contacting the defendant, and the person's attempts to locate the spouse, the trial court, upon proper motion, may order service by publication under this chapter without further attempts at personal service.

SECTION 2. Nothing in this act shall require a waiting period for service by publication that is longer than the waiting period in effect prior to July 1, 2017.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to all actions filed on or after that date.